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SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1911.

WHACKING AT THE FEE SYSTEM.

Not in any degree overstating the case, the Roanoke World has this to say as to the fee system:

"The voters of Virginia may as well realize that in any effort made before the next Legislature for the abolition of the fee system, they have to make the hottest kind of a fight with the office-holders' combine in the State, and the time to make the fight is in the election preceding the meeting of the next General Assembly. Every man who is a candidate for the Legislature in either house of that body should be called on to declare himself either in favor of abandoning the fee system or opposed to it. Any candidate who fails to declare unequivocally that he will vote for a measure providing salaries instead of fees for all public offices should be defeated."

As our contemporary goes on to say, the fee system is a heavy tax on the people of the State, and thousands of dollars can be saved by paying straight salaries. Under the present system, the officer is the only man who knows what amount he receives. What all do know is that, with this system in vogue, many public officers have incomes far in excess of the actual value of the services which they render, and far more than they could earn for similar work in other business.

On the second count, the World is right again. There are in some cities and counties too many officers. In many places one man could do easily the work which is now done by two men. In such cases the offices should be consolidated. Thousands can thus be saved to the State.

One of the chief obstacles which blocks the establishment of economy and fair play in the governmental system of Virginia is the personal equation. Your average fee system officer is suave, plausible, popular, a Marathon hand-shaker and sayer of flattering nothings. He is jovial, hail-fellow-well-met, does favors gladly, contributes to worthy causes, as he is amply able to do, affects much sympathy for those in distress, is a professional mourner and entertainer at the same time. You like him, and you do not think of him at all when attacks are made on the fee system. The average man thinks about this way: "Oh, Clerk Blank, he's a mighty nice man; he ought not to be interfered with, though on principle I oppose the fee system." That is the asset of the office-holder. In many cases men are so indebted to him in one way or another that they are his political serfs. Ties of kinship and family connections help him out. He is all things to all men. He is the pink of politeness. But what if he is? Are we not too polite to our politicians?

COUNTING ON THE MOB.

For eighteen months an active campaign for United States Senator has been in progress in Mississippi, and it still has six weeks to run before it will be decided at the Democratic primaries. There are three candidates in the field—Leroy Percy, the incumbent; C. H. Alexander and James K. Vardaman. Vardaman has been making a hand to hand campaign for the place, and has been loading the winds with his violent demonstrations, seeking by every means in his power and within the range of his rhetoric to keep the dying fires of sectional and race animosities alive. Percy is a very good man, and has made an acceptable Senator, and Alexander appears to be of a better sort than the firebrand who would displace the one and defeat the other.

Mr. Vardaman is an agitator of the Denis Kearney type pure and simple. His violence of speech and disposition would defeat him before any thoughtful and self-respecting constituency, but it is of such as he that the primary system makes its selections. "The type of politician represented by former Governor Vardaman," says the Montgomery Advertiser, which is ashamed that it ever had anything to do with the system, "has been relegated to the rear in nearly all Southern States. Such a type came into conspicuous prominence some six or eight years ago, when the primary system first began to be installed in the Southern States.' Men, gifted only in the arts of the agitator, found their way open and clear to the prejudices of the voters. They were successful, far beyond their deserts. The people want to do the fair thing and the just thing, but they are slow in seizing hold of the realities. They move slowly, but they move steadily. The seal of popular disapproval has been put upon the agitator in practically every Southern State except Arkansas and Mississippi. Mississippi is offered the opportunity of returning to its old ideals of public men."

There is said to be a good deal of doubt as to what Mississippi will do with its present opportunity. The mob spirit is still very strong in that State, and Mr. Vardaman is an ideal leader of the mob. We shall hope that the respectable, law-abiding people of the State will show him and his kind, once for all, that, whatever their local and personal differences, they will not expose themselves to the contempt of the people of the whole country by choosing the least worthy of the candidates now asking for their support.

PUBLIC SHIPS AS PRIVATE YACHTS.

Last month while the dispatch boat Dolphin was cruising in the Potomac River the motorboat Culprit Fay was run down and at least one person, we believe, was drowned. The naval board of inquiry appointed to investigate the accident has decided that the Dolphin was not responsible for the collision and its fatal results, and the findings of the board have been approved by the coroner. We have no doubt that the board did its work faithfully and there will be general agreement with its decision; but the question that is of far greater interest is why the Dolphin was cruising at the time of the accident? Was it engaged in the service of the Government or in the service of private individuals at the expense of the Government?

While the investigating spirit is in possession of the members of Congress it would not be a bad idea if inquiry should be made into the uses to which the ships of the Government are turned. We are sure that the Secretary of the Navy would welcome the fullest inquiry into this feature of the service. The Government ships are not private yachts, and they should be employed only in the public service. Are they?

THE COTTON MILL MERGER.

Plans for the merger of certain Southern cotton mills are well under way in New York. A corporation controlling the operation of a million spindles is to be organized under the laws of New York, with a capital of $35,000,000, and, if all the factors sought for in the making up of this great trust go into the combination, it will include plants in North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Mississippi. One of the objects to be gained by the combination is by such consolidation to effect substantial economies in operation, another is to bring about standardization and uniformity of distribution in the output of the mills, and still another is to do away with the services of the commission merchant so as to keep the business strictly between the manufacturer and the dealer.

It is said that care has been taken to form this combination so that it will not come in conflict with the Sherman anti-trust law, and we have no doubt that it has been kept as far as possible within the rule of reason; but would it not be better if the promoters of the plan should go directly to Congress and ask it for an act of incorporation, so that the combination would know exactly "where it is at" before venturing into a field that is full of stumps? Whether or not Congress has the power to grant such an act of incorporation as we have suggested is open to question; but it would do no harm for the cotton mill merger to find out before going too far with its present undertaking. A combination that proposes to change the methods of handling cotton goods for a large number of mills situated in many different States, that will standardize the goods manufactured by these mills, that will cut out the commission man and trade directly with the merchant—all excellent things in themselves and things that should be encouraged—might be considered and will be considered by some persons as in restraint of trade.

Economies in operation, controlling the export trade and standardization are some of the things that got the Standard Oil and Tobacco trusts into trouble.

THE SPEAKER'S CHANCE.

Champ Clark may have a good start on the road to the White House, but precedents do not augur well for him. There have been thirty-five Speakers of the House, but only one of them became President. He was James K. Polk. He did not go into office until six years after he had laid down the gavel of the American Commons, and it will be recalled that he was a compromise candidate. The fact that Polk was the ideal President should, however, lend strength to the Clark advocates.

When the American people choose their Presidents, they seem to favor warriors, successful Governors, or men prominent in Congress. They do not take very kindly to the Speaker, as the cases of Henry Clay and James G. Blaine, unsuccessful candidates, show. Thomas B. Reed, whom many regard as the greatest of American Speakers, even failed of a nomination.

Nor are Presidents pro tem. of the Senate or Vice-Presidents regarded with favor. John Tyler is the only Vice-President who became President after the custom was abandoned of giving the second place to the candidate who next to the President secured the most votes.

AT A DOLLAR A YEAR.

Congressman Taylor's bill making every post-office in the country a subscription agency for the Congressional Record, which is to be sent to subscribers at $1 the year when the number of subscribers has reached one million, is like a great deal of the legislation that has been undertaken at Washington. One dollar would not pay for the paper and one million people could not be hired to read it at any price. Besides, The Commoner can be had for two years for one dollar.

Instead of offering the Record at this low subscription price, it would be better if a bill should be passed requiring every public school in the country to use it in the reading lessons of the day, every day, so that the young idea might be taught to shoot in the direction of Washington. Then arrangements should be made to have the Record carry pictures of the Congressmen when they are speaking, and advertisements, also, for purposes of revenue. It won't be well if the Record could be offered at a lower price in clubs of ten, so that ten Records sent to one address would not cost more than eight dollars. The thing to do is to get it in circulation, and provision should also be made for the carriage of the paper through the mails at an excess rate of postage, as it would be in no proper sense a newspaper and entitled to the newspaper rate of postage, and a cracker should be tacked on to the bill making it a penal offence for any one receiving the Record not to read it regularly.

Why should the spirit of mortals be tried by such legislative attempts as this? It would be cheaper to keep Congressman Taylor at his home in Kentucky at his full salary with perquisites than to allow him to continue to represent that great State of bloodshed and Bourbon whiskey in Washington.

SAD JOY RIDERS.

Louis Davis, a South Carolina doctor's chauffeur, disregarded his instructions to put the car in the garage some months ago, and at about midnight went out for a spin with his chums, whom he met at a "blind tiger," the term applied to saloons in the Palmetto State. The car, going from 35 to 40 miles the hour, struck a horse and buggy, throwing out the occupants. Nobody was seriously injured, but the automobile was smashed. A criminal prosecution followed, and the defendants were sentenced to imprisonment for five years. This sentence was upheld by the State Supreme Court. Criminal conspiracy to use the motor car of another without his consent was one of the counts under which the defendants were found guilty. The higher court held "that a criminal conspiracy is not restricted to unlawful acts which affect the community or the public, as distinguished from the individual, a conspiracy being a combination of persons to accomplish a criminal or unlawful object, or an object neither criminal nor unlawful by criminal or unlawful means."

This decision ought to stand as a warning to those who whiz through the city streets and along curving country roads in the midnight hours. Very often the joy rider is using some machine other than his own.

FLOWERS FOR "OLD MISS."

From the Fredericksburg Free Lance is learned a very interesting and touching story concerning the tie of affection which bound together slave and owner. Millie Carter, a colored woman, was once owned by the family of John P. Coleman, of Spotsylvania. After the war she and her husband went to Oakland, California, but they have never forgotten the days when she lived in Virginia or the people who raised her.

Last February John T. Coleman, who lives near Massaponax, received a letter from her and later a silver sugar spoon for each member of the family. A few days before Memorial Day she sent a check for $5 to be expended for flowers to be placed on the grave of "Old Miss." This as, the Free Lance says, was a simple and touching tribute, and it gives evidence of the ties which bound the colored people of "before the war" to the whites. "There are only a few left, and they are as true as steel, as is demonstrated in instances like this," our contemporary rightly says. Mr. Coleman, presumably the son of the owner of Millie Carter, wrote "Aunt Millie" that if ever adversity overtook her she should "come to the old homestead in Virginia and make her home there the balance of her life."

This ex-slave agrees with him of old who said that it is sometimes pleasing to remember. In many a heart there is still the sweet picture of an "Old Miss" who now belongs to that choir invisible of those whose nobility and loveliness still live as influences in the world of ours.

THE GREAT CENTURY.

Neither in the eighteenth, nineteenth, nor twentieth century has the pessimistic pragmatism of the laudator temporis acti prevailed. Up to the eighteenth century, however, the great majority of the educated people of Europe looked backward to "the glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome." It is not a common trait of mankind at present to regard that which is past as best, but rather to agree with the words put into the mouth of Rabbi Ben Ezra by Browning, "The best is yet to be."

Rather unusual, if not discordant, comes the voice now of Professor James J. Walsh, of Fordham University, who declares that the judgment of the romantic revivalist was correct, and that a renaissance is the need of the age. He is of opinion that the thirteenth century was the greatest of centuries. If it was, it was great in measures rather than in men. It gave Dante to the world. It gave Roger Bacon, St. Francis of Assisi and Louis XI.

Professor Walsh names the following as the achievements of the thirteenth century which entiles it to first distinction:

"The first universities conducted on lines like those of to-day.

"Magna Charta, with its representative government, constitutional guarantees and protection of the rights of the poor.

"Eight-hour day for workmen, with Saturday half-holiday and forty full holidays in the year.

"A living wage fixed by act of Parliament—very small measured in money, but very large measured by purchasing power, when compared with the wages of to-day.

"General education in trades and handicraft, and the most extraordinary success of trades unions (guilds) the world has seen.

"Industrial insurance and old-age pensions which safeguarded the workers against want."

This was, indeed, a great century in the ascertainment of human rights and duties. In the development of social conscience, but there will be general demurrer to the declaration of the Fordham scholar. Great men lived before Agamemnon, we are told. Plato and Aristotle lived before Bacon and Abelard. Before Louis XI. Julius Caesar rode down the ways of fame, and the conquerors and empire builders of Egypt must be taken into account. Confucius and Lao Tsa, Buddha, Moses, Isaiah, the authors of the Psalms and Job belonged to a great age.

THE ANCIENT GAME.

Professor Frederick Starr has discovered that dice-throwing was popular 1200 years before the beginning of the Christian Era. According to the Nashville Tennessean, on account of this revelation, "crap shootin' has climbed out of the humble hands of the negro deckhand to the gaming table of the ultra-fashionable." It is said on excellent authority that in one of the greatest of American universities there is a club in which venerable teachers of Sanskrit and youthful instructors in Old Irish get together occasionally and shoot craps for an hour or so.

The stately Greeks and the noble Romans who played the game probably gave it a much less picturesque verbal accompaniment than it has now. The Tennessean thinks it would be interesting to know what Aristotle said when calling for "'Big Liz,' which is the way the newsboy and the bootblack call for a combination on the two dice which will total nine." Our contemporary also seeks the Greek equivalent of the Afro-American "Big Dick," "Little Joe" and "Phoebe Five." Whatever may be said of the history of the game, let it at least be agreed upon that if the Greeks discovered the game, it remained for the modern Ethiopians to develop it into a science.

THE INVITATION.

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."—Matt. xi. 28.

It is human nature to shun those creatures and things that are not attractive to us. We try to avoid them, and turn away from the unpleasant with a shudder. Not so is it true of our Divine Saviour. He calls lovingly to all manner of men to come to Him. We often hear that invitation of our text, and we know it was meant for us, for are we not all more or less weary and heavy-laden, are we not bowed down by the weight of our sin? Many of us feel or say that it was very good of our Lord Jesus to come down from His throne in Heaven to suffer and die for our sins, and that it was merciful to have compassion even upon His enemies. And there we end. How trite our thought or words are in comparison to the real mercy on His part and the real sacrifice!

Let us remember how He, the all-holy, all-pure and undefiled, abominates sin, and how our lives are in most cases tainted with it and often made up of little else. And yet it is to those who are most bowed down under its burden that He vouchsafes to say: "Come unto Me." Surely no word in the blessed Scripture is more wonderful than this one, "come." Think of all it means. From His throne in Heaven He bids us all, high and low, sinners, rich and poor, to "come." He even said: "I come to call sinners to repentance; I come to seek and to save that which was lost."

And having so come to us, He bids us all come to Him, and He never bids us come but He attaches some gracious promise to the invitation. "Come unto Me. . . . and your soul shall live." "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink." "Let him that is athirst come, whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." Whosoever! There is no limit, no restriction. And yet, because they who have the most need to come might, on that very ground, lose heart and grow fearful of approaching Him, He singles them out especially—"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

Surely such love passes understanding and conception. It is high as Heaven; we cannot measure it. He bids us come to Him, and to whom else should we go? There is no help, nor rest, nor peace, nor salvation in any other. Any of us, no matter how much we are bowed down by the load of sin, have received this divine invitation to come and find rest and forgiveness. . . . "Ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." For the present it is not rest from our labors, but in our labors; by and by it shall be rest from our labors, and the work done shall follow us. But it must be work done for Him. His work is restful. "The work of righteousness is quietness and assurance forever." While in this world we must still labor and fight and endure, must still strive to climb the steep and rugged path; but then all this is coming to Christ. As we come, faint we may be, but He will give us strength to proceed, and with our weariness He will mingle a sense of rest.

There may be turmoil without, but the promise of Christ never fails His true servants, that all that is essential for peace shall be found within. It is a gift which the world can neither bestow nor take away. How this can be we know not, but it is sufficient to know that no one ever yet accepted the invitation of Christ and was disappointed of his hope to find peace and rest unto his soul.

Let us keep before us who it is that bids us come, and let us pray continually that we may be so taught of His Spirit that we may in faith follow the way to Him, so that we may cease to labor and be heavy-laden and find His yoke easy and His burden light.

The Savannah News remarks that "it is strange what a number of foolish things people will do on a dare or a bet." This is called forth by the action of Mr. Bennett, of New York, who has a luxuriant growth of brilliant red whiskers. They were more brilliant than those which made the Hon. James Ham Lewis famous. Mr. Bennett was very proud of his "hirsute adornment," as they call them in Texas. He was at his club the other evening, when somebody began to joke him about his whiskers. A bet was made that Mr. Bennett would not cut his whiskers off. To show that he was "game," he called the club barber and ordered a clean shave. That won him $2. After awhile he went home. When he fell up the steps his wife did not recognize him. He tried to explain, but he couldn't talk intelligibly, and so Mrs. Bennett called the police and had the "strange man" carried to the lockup, where he slept in a cell. It is a wise wife who knows her own husband when his whiskers are cut off.

Captain Kilpatrick, of the Yale track team, has been given a Phi Beta Kappa key. Brain and brawn.

Dr. Charles Hopkins Clark, the distinguished editor of the Hartford Courant, is very much pleased with Senator McLean, and so are we, as we have the right to be, seeing that it was our support of him that prevailed against old Bulkeley in the great campaign last year.

Professor S. C. Curry, of Boston, breaks all records for politeness and nice feelings. He was knocked down and bruised by a street car Sunday. He jumped up, promptly said that it was his own fault, and apologized to the conductor for delaying traffic. Of course, he is from Alabama. The story recalls that of the Kentucky major who shot and slew a man through mistake. He explained the matter to the widow with profuse apologies, "and she, bein' a perfect Kentucky lady, said it was all right."

"Why reporters go insane" is the caption used by the Chicago Tribune over the following questions put to newspaper men:

"Your work must be very interesting."

"Do you really have to associate with bartenders, hold-up men and all those rough people."

"Why didn't you put the picture in a better place?"

"Do write up our Church social in the society column."

"Do you write your own articles?"

"What is B. L. T.'s real name? Can you get one of my jokes into his column?"

And there are a thousand more questions just like these that are heard daily by the bromidion-weary newspaper man.

"Houston has abundance of artesian drinking water—none anywhere finer," says Progressive Houston. Yes, but nobody uses it in the red-eye town.

"Instead of kicking at the umpire, why not apply the recall?" says the Index-Appeal. This application of the principle would forcibly demonstrate its unsoundness. Also, it would create backboneless umpires.

Despite the Orange Observer's weekly insistence as to the superiority of the Orange near-waffle, the Blackstone waffle is supreme in Virginia and the rest of the world. After devouring two doze of these tasty delicacies and restraining himself with difficulty from eating more, King George will go through the coronation as fit as a fiddle.

Dr. Frederick A. Cook, the Original Discoverer of the North Pole, and in consequence the most abused man of his age, because somebody else coveted the distinction he had fairly won by his own intrepid daring, is still in the land of the living. On Thursday he appeared as a witness before Commissioner Carl L. Schurz, in New York, in the suit brought by Rudolph Francke in a German Court for the recovery of the value of a quantity of valuable furs obtained by Francke and Dr. Cook from the Eskimos and left with Commander Peary. The furs were worth about $10,000, and Francke wants the money and so does Dr. Cook, and they are both entitled to it. It was bad enough for Dr. Cook to lose the North Pole in the scuffle for Arctic honors; it is worse now if he should have to give up his furs also. Judgment for the claimants.

A New Jersey farmer rigged up a scarecrow in his cornfield. He dressed it in a hobble skirt and a bushel basket hat. The crows have been completely frightened away.

If the people at the band concerts would listen instead of talking so much, how much better it would be!

Sarah Bernhardt deserves the adjective, wonderful. She played continuously on her long tour of the two Americas, for which she received $1,000,000. She took time and energy to go on excursions. She visited the steel works at Homestead, Pennsylvania, an outing that kept her up all night. At Montreal she went sleighing on the St. Lawrence, with the thermometer at 23 degrees below zero. She visited the military camp at San Antonio, and paid a call at Juarez, just before the Mexican city was attacked by the Insurrectos. Age has little effect on her.

Daily Queries and Answers

David's Mother.

Let me know who was the mother of King David.

ROBERT M. JEFFREYS, JR.

According to a high ecclesiastical authority the name of David's mother is not known.

Bank and Trust Company.

What is the difference between a bank and a trust company?

INTERESTED.

A bank is an institution for the purpose of lending, borrowing, caring for or issuing money. A national bank is chartered by the government, and is privileged to issue money to certain amounts in the name of the government; they may carry on a regular banking business, and are under the supervision of the government. A trust company may also carry on a banking business, much in the manner as the national bank, though it cannot issue money, and is under the supervision of the State instead of the government. In addition, a trust company is empowered to perform a variety of services; some of them act as trustee, performing as a corporation, the general acts and assuming the general responsibilities imposed upon individuals under the laws of trusts; they in some cases perform the function of a private savings bank, conduct a mortgage investment business, title guarantee and other insurance.

TRIES TO ESTABLISH FRENCH CITIZENSHIP

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

PRINCESS VICTOR NAKASCHIDZE, who is now engaged in legal proceedings at Paris, with the object of recovering and establishing her French citizenship, is a woman with a most romantic past. She was born in 1866, at Aden, that is to say, at the mouth of the Red Sea, of an Austrian mother of rank, and of an Alsatian father, of the name of Baron Roedel.

As Alsace at that time belonged to France, and Baron Roedel was therefore a Frenchman, he had his daughter's birth registered by the French consular agency at Aden. But in 1880 a cyclone, which devastated Aden, destroyed the French consular agency, and all the registers and archives from 1864 to 1880 were lost.

After the War of 1870, Baron Roedel exercised his option in favor of French citizenship, and on several occasions the baron and his wife were able, in consequence thereof, to obtain passports from French consuls and legations. The baron belonged to the Protestant Church, and his daughter received from a Calvinist pastor at Lausanne a document intimating that she had been admitted as a member of his church. She was a very clever girl, and for a time commanded the interest of Evelyn, Duchess of Wellington, who virtually adopted her, and whose name has been mentioned in the present proceedings in Paris.

But when she grew up she quarreled with the duchess, and leaving her, betook herself to Paris, and devoted herself there to the study of medicine, being among the first women to secure a diploma of medicine in France. She also holds a Swiss degree of doctor of medicine. During her studies at Paris, she was brought into contact with the Russian Prince Victor Nakaschidze, a scion of that great and illustrious house of the Caucasian nobility from which the late Czarevitch George, the younger brother of Emperor Nicholas, took his morganatic wife, at Abbas Tuman, in the Caucasus.

Mlle. von Roedel became engaged to the prince. Before any marriage could take place, he returned to Russia, and on account of his complicity in the great Nihilist conspiracy of 1885, was arrested, tried by court-martial, and condemned to death, the sentence being subsequently commuted to life-long imprisonment, with hard labor, in the Siberian mines. His fiancee accompanied him thither, and with her aid, he managed to effect his escape.

The couple made their way to the Pacific coast, and thence, via Japan, to the United States, where they married. Proceeding first to London, and then to Paris, the princess made her living by the practice of medicine, while her husband taught languages, and studied chemistry, until condemned to a year's imprisonment for having been concerned, with a number of Russian refugees, in the manufacture of explosive bombs at Vincennes. After completing his term of imprisonment, he was expelled from France.

And then the couple ventured once more to Russia, where they were concerned in another Nihilist plot, which led to the prince being condemned afresh to death, a similar sentence being pronounced against his wife.

Both managed to escape abroad, and from that time forth until the death of the prince, from tuberculosis, their life was one of revolutionary activity, and expulsion, in turn, from Spain, from Switzerland, from Italy, from Belgium, and from Germany. Only in England were they left undisturbed, though subject to close watching. Twice the prince was thrown into prison in France, for having returned there in defiance of the order of expulsion pronounced against him, and on one occasion his wife secured a personal interview with Casimir Perier, who was President of the republic at the time, and through her passionate appeals, obtained her husband's freedom.

Of course her marriage was not recognized by the Russian government, partly because the prince was an outlaw and a fugitive from justice at the time when it took place, and partly, too, because, belonging to a different church than his own, he had failed to obtain the sanction of the Czar to the union. Hence she has been denied Russian citizenship.

Tired of being treated as an alien, and as such liable to be expelled from France at any moment, at the instance of Russia, as "undesirable," the widowed princess is now endeavoring to establish the fact that she has a right to French citizenship, through her birth and parentage. She has, however, no papers to show, except some private letters of her parents, and before the case is decided in her favor, and her petition is granted by the French courts, it will be necessary for her to secure some sort of corroboration, through people who were living at Aden in 1866, of the fact that she was born there at that time.

The princess was a very beautiful and fascinating woman in her younger days, and still retains much of her good looks. She is small in stature, dresses elegantly, is very brilliant in conversation, and has most fascinating manners.

With regard to the late Czarevitch George's morganatic marriage with another Princess Nakaschidze, to which I have made reference above, it may be recalled that when the Czarevitch died very suddenly in 1899, on a country roadside, near Abbas Tuman, of the bursting of a blood vessel,—all alone, save for an aged peasant woman, who happened to be passing, and who, finding him lying there, knelt down beside, and supported him in her arms while he breathed his last—he left a morganatic widow, and three children. He had contracted the marriage in the face of the protests and commands of his brother, the Emperor, the marriage taking place in the palace of Duke Constantine of Oldenburg, at Abbas Tuman, whither the duke had retired after his own morganatic marriage to Agrippina Djaparidze, daughter of one of the neighboring chieftains of the Caucasus, who had large estates in the district.

Emperor Nicholas, while he has made provision for his brother's widow and children, has declined to bestow upon them any titles, or to officially recognize them in any way, prompted thereto largely by political considerations; for the Caucasus is the most unruly portion of the Muscovite Empire. Its people are always ready to rise, on the slightest provocation, and had there been any recognition by the Russian crown of the marriage of Czarevitch George, his children would have become a source of danger to Russian rule in the Caucasus. They would always have constituted a temptation to the tribes to take up arms for national independence, under the rulership of a prince, born of a member of the house of Romanoff and of a woman of one of the formerly sovereign families of the Caucasus.

Duke Constantine of Oldenburg was disgraced by the Czar, and deprived of his military honors and dignities, for having encouraged and approved of Czarevitch George's marriage to Princess Nakaschidze. He spent the remainder of his life abroad. His widow received the title of Countess Zarnskau from the reigning Grand Duke of Oldenburg, and one of her children, Alexandra by name, is the extravagant wife of Prince George Youriefski, a lieutenant-colonel of the Cossacks of the Guard at St. Petersburg, and only son of the ill-fated Alexander II., by Princess Catherine Dolgorouka, who was married morganatically to the Emperor a few months before his assassination by the Nihilists, and years after the birth of her son and two daughters. Young Princess George Youriefski is now being sued by a leading firm of Paris dressmakers, for $20,000 worth of dresses, which, since she has declared herself to be insolvent, her husband has been condemned to pay.

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